disclosed on page 3, line 26, to page 4, line 6, of the specification.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected by the examiner under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Knight et al. Applicants assert that the instant claims do not read on the disclosure of Knight et al. as the instant claims require that the active ingredient be either a pharmaceutically active drug or a vitamin. These embodiments of the invention is disclosed on page 6, line 14, to page 7, line 42, of the specification. In sharp contrast, Knight et al., at col. 2, lines 55-58, states that the active ingredient is

> selected from the group consisting of acaricides, insecticides, nematicides, herbicides, fungicides, plant growth regulants, fertilizers, trace nutrients, biological control agents or a combination thereof.

Clearly, there is no disclosure in Knight that the controlled release, biodegradable matrix contains a pharmaceutically active drug or vitamin, as required by the present claims. . Applicants therefore request that the rejection of instant claims 5-11 as anticipated by Knight et al. be withdrawn. It is believed by applicants that new claim 12 is further distinguishable over the prior art because none of the matrix compounds specified by the claim are disclosed in the Knight reference: Knight discloses only an amylaceous material, or a derivative thereof, as a suitable component of the matrix (col. 2, lines 46-50).

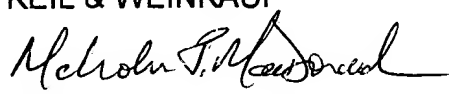
CONCLUSION

Based on the above amendment and remarks, applicants submit that the instant

application is now in condition for allowance. Early action to this end is solicited.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KEIL & WEINKAUF



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